

§ 170.424

(1) Submit its tribal priority list to the appropriate BIA Region, which will develop the region-wide control schedule after consulting with the tribe and taking its priorities into account; or

(2) Enter a consortium of tribes and delegate authority to the consortium to develop the TTIP and tribal control schedule;

(3) Enter into agreement with other tribes to permit completion of the project; or

(4) Apply for IRRHPP funding under subpart C.

(c) In order to get a project on the IRRTIP, tribes may seek flexible financing alternatives as described in subpart C.

§ 170.424 How does the public participate in developing the IRRTIP?

Public involvement is required in the development of the IRRTIP.

(a) BIA or the tribe must publish a notice in local and tribal newspapers when the draft tribal or IRRTIP is complete. In the absence of local public newspapers, the tribe or BIA may post notices under local acceptable practices. The notice must indicate where a copy can be obtained, contact person for questions, where comments may be submitted, and the deadline for submitting comments.

(b) BIA or the tribe may hold public meetings at which the public may comment orally or in writing.

(c) BIA, the tribe, the State transportation agency or MPO may conduct public involvement activities.

§ 170.425 How does BIA update the IRRTIP?

The IRRTIP annual update allows incorporation of transportation projects planned for the next 3 to 5 years. Each BIA regional office updates the IRRTIP for each State in its service area to reflect changes in the TTIPs or tribal project listings.

(a) During the first quarter of the fiscal year each BIA Regional Office notifies tribes of the update and provides projected IRR Program funding amounts and a copy of the previous year's regional IRRTIP.

(b) The tribe reviews any new transportation planning information, priority lists, and TTIP and forwards an

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updated TTIP or project listing to BIA Regional Office on or before July 15.

(c) The BIA regional office reviews all submitted information with the tribes. BIA adds agreed-upon updates, including previously approved amendments (see §170.427), to the IRRTIP so that the Secretaries can approve the new updated IRRTIP before the start of the next fiscal year.

§ 170.426 What is the approval process for the IRRTIP?

The approval process for the IRRTIP is:

(a) The BIA Regional Office forwards the IRRTIP to the Secretaries for review and approval;

(b) Federal Lands Highway Office will provide copies of the approved IRRTIP to the FHWA division office for transmittal to the State transportation agency for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The approved IRRTIP will be returned to BIA;

(c) BIA sends copies of the approved IRRTIP to BIA Regional Offices and tribal governments; and

(d) Within 10 working days of receiving the approved IRRTIP and IRR Program funds, BIA enters the projects into the Federal finance system.

§ 170.427 How may an IRRTIP be amended?

(a) A tribe may amend the IRRTIP by changing its TTIP on or before July 15 and submitting the changed TTIP to BIA for inclusion in the IRRTIP. BIA's regional office will review all submitted information with the tribe and provide a written response (approving, denying, or requesting additional information) within 45 days. If the proposed IRRTIP amendment contains a project not listed on the current approved IRRTIP, BIA must submit the proposed amendment to FHWA for final approval.

(b) BIA may amend the IRRTIP:

(1) To add or delete projects or reflect significant changes in scope at any time if requested by the tribe; and

(2) To reduce funding or reschedule a project after consulting with the affected tribe and obtaining its consent, if practical.